

Town of Concord
Special Town Meeting
February 4, 2016

Pursuant to a Warrant signed by the Select Board on January 4, 2016 and posted on January 21, 2016, Town Moderator Eric Van Loon called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the Concord-Carlisle High School Auditorium.

Mr. Van Loon acknowledged and thanked the School Committee for the comfortable setting for the meeting, noting that this was the first time that Town Meeting was being held in the new facility. He reminded attendees and those watching from home on CCTV of the purpose and significance of Town Meeting, which serves as the legislative body for our Town. Every registered voter is entitled to attend the meeting, voice his or her views, and vote on the financial and policy matters that shape the quality of life in Concord. He thanked those present for taking the time to participate in this important function, noting that 132 voters had checked in by the starting time of 7:00 pm.

Mr. Van Loon declared that he had inspected the Return of Service of the Warrant, finding it to be in order, and that a sufficient number of voters were present to permit the meeting to be opened. He noted that the seats in the lower rows of the Auditorium were reserved for town officials and for those attendees who need to be close. He invited attendees who consider themselves to be spry and fit to enjoy the view from a higher perch in the Auditorium, acknowledging that this would be more of an issue with the larger attendance expected at the Annual Town Meeting in April.

Mr. Van Loon noted that James Smith had been elected Deputy Moderator at last April's Annual Town Meeting, and would continue to serve in that capacity at this meeting. He noted the appointment of Abe Fisher as Head Teller and David Karr as Ballot Supervisor, should the meeting need to have any counted votes. He reminded voters who were present and wished to fully participate in the meeting that they should check in with the Election Officers in the Lobby and obtain a voting slip. Town Counsel Kevin Batt and Town Meeting Procedures Resource Person Johanna Glazer were introduced. Fire Chief Mark Cotreau reviewed evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

Girl Scouts Lauryn Friess and Colette Mone, and Boy Scouts Will Duggan and Nick Owen brought the flags forward. Mr. Van Loon asked attendees to stand in a moment of silence to reflect on how, through this Town Meeting, we and our neighbors are gathered to provide for our common good. As we deliberate and vote, may we remember that the passions of the moment are not always the best guide for our conduct in the future. And if a Town Meeting action requires sacrifice by some, may it be only where the common goal is worthy of the sacrifice. Let us approach each issue, no matter how difficult or divisive, with an open mind and heart. And above all, may each of us maintain a saving sense of humor, so that the debates at this Town Meeting will not be a source of division among us when our business here is concluded.

Mr. Van Loon thanked Town officials and employees who assisted in the preparations for this meeting, including High School Principal Peter Badalament; Public Works Staff Andy Giles, Mick Hone and Rich Weaver; Police and Fire Department Staff; Child Care Sitters (CPR & First Aid Certified) Zack Vaillette and Marty Hutchinson; Town Clerk's Staff Anita Tekle, Pat Clifford and the Election Workers in the Lobby; Town Manager's Staff Christopher Whelan, Kate Hodges, Sean Dugan, Mark Howell, Leslie Koplow and Laurel Landry; and Finance Director Tony Logalbo. Mr. Van Loon pointed out the five microphones present for those wishing to comment or ask a question. He reminded all to silence cell phones and other electronic devices. At 7:17 pm the meeting took up the first order of business.

ARTICLE 1. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT OF THE MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The following **MOTION** was made by Carolyn Flood and duly seconded:

That the Town vote, consistent with Section VII of the existing "Agreement With Respect to the Establishment of a Technical and Vocational Regional School District" for the Minuteman Regional Vocational School District, to accept the amendments to said Agreement which have been initiated and approved by a vote of the Regional School Committee on December 21, 2015, and which have been submitted as a restated "Regional Agreement" bearing the date of December 21 to the Board of Selectmen of each member town.

Select Board member Carmin Reiss noted that the Select Board unanimously recommends affirmative action on Article 1. Finance Committee Chair Richard Giles noted that the Finance Committee unanimously recommends affirmative action on Article 1. Mr. Van Loon noted that Concord's role under Article 1 is to approve or disapprove the vote taken by the Regional School Committee, with no amendments allowed. Cynthia Rainey announced that the League of Women Voters recommends an affirmative vote on Article 1.

After further discussion, at 7:38 pm a **VOTE** was taken, and Article 1 **PASSED** by a near unanimous vote, and was so declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 2. AUTHORIZE LONG-TERM LEASE FOR NAGOG POND GROUND-MOUNTED AND ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS

The following **MOTION** was made by Christopher Whelan and duly seconded:

That the Town vote to authorize the Town Manager to enter into long-term leases, licenses and/or other contractual agreements subject to terms and conditions approved by the Select Board for all or a portion of the following Town of Concord municipal properties located in Acton, MA: Town of Acton parcel numbers C4-14, C4-32 and Town of Concord utility and access easements located on Town of Acton parcel number C4-29 and C4-21; for the purposes of installing and operating solar energy generating facilities and supplying solar energy,

including rooftop, ground-mounted and other solar facilities, and further to authorize the Select Board and Town Manager to take such action as may be necessary under state law to effectuate said agreements.

Mr. Van Loon announced that both the Select Board and Finance Committee recommend affirmative action on Article 2. After further discussion, at 7:56 pm a **VOTE** was taken, and Article 2 **PASSED** by an overwhelming two-thirds majority vote, and was so declared by the Moderator.

Mr. Van Loon noted the importance of the public hearing process, which allows attendees to hear more in-depth presentations about Town Meeting articles. Two such hearings have already been held for the Annual Town Meeting, and three more are scheduled – the Select Board’s hearing on February 8th, the Planning Board’s hearing on February 9th, and the Enterprise Fund hearing on February 29.

At 8:00 pm, upon a **MOTION** duly made and seconded, the Special Town Meeting was adjourned and dissolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita S. Tekle
Town Clerk

ATTENDANCE: 168 registered voters